

### **Agricultural Water Quality Improvement Activities General Permit Instructions**

The General Permit (WDNR-GP18-2023) is available under ch. 30 and s. 281.36 (3g), Wis. Stats., for placement and maintenance of structures on the beds of watercourses, removal of material from the bed of a navigable stream, grading from the bank of a navigable waterway, construction of a maintenance or ford crossing in a navigable stream, and a permanent or temporary discharge to or fill of wetlands of no more than 10,000 square feet. To qualify for this general permit, your project must meet all eligibility standards listed below and all other terms and conditions outlined in WDNR-GP18-2023.

#### **Determine eligibility for this general permit:**

- Choose an activity decision module on web, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways>, **or**
- Review the eligibility criteria below.
  - If the project does not meet all of the eligibility standards, apply for an Individual Permit.

#### **To apply:**

- Apply online using our online ePermitting System at <http://dnr.wi.gov/permits/water>.
- Include all required attachments. Each document must be less than 15 megabytes and our online system offers a help guide to reduce file sizes.
- Permit processing review times begin when all of the required application materials are received by the DNR. The department may require additional information to evaluate the project.
- If you have questions regarding your application, contact the local Water Management Specialist for your county <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waterways/contacts.html#county>.
- Your signed submittal of this project application checklist constitutes a request that certifying authority (State of Wisconsin) review and take action on this CWA 401 certification request, as required, within the applicable reasonable period of time.

#### **Please note, prior to starting any work at the project site, you are responsible for:**

- Obtain all necessary local (e.g. city, town, village or county) permits.
- Obtain U.S. Army Corps of Engineer permits or approvals, <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.
- Any other applicable state permits

#### **Required attachments** - Forms or documents you upload in our online ePermitting System:

- 1. Application form** – A complete, signed application form “Water Resources Application for Project Permits (WRAPP)” (Form 3500-053).
- 2. Application fee** – Payment must be submitted through the ePermitting System as part of the application process. A list of fees can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/documents/PermitDocs/feesheet.pdf>.
- 3. Application Checklist** – a signed copy of the permit application checklist certifying that the applicant agrees to meet the eligibility criteria and permit conditions established in WDNR GP18-2023.
- 4. Ownership Documentation** - (i.e. copy of deed, land contract, current property tax statement/receipt)
- 5. Photographs** that clearly show the on-the-ground conditions of the existing project areas. Remember that too much snow cover or vegetation may obscure important details. If possible, have another person stand near the project area for size reference. Color images are preferred.
- 6. Site Maps** that clearly illustrate the location and perimeter of the project site, and its relationship to nearby water resources (e.g. lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands), major landmarks and roads. Provide copies of relevant maps (e.g. wetland, aerial, topographical, soil, floodplain, or zoning maps), with the project location clearly identified. The Department offers a web mapping tool to assist in creating these maps at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/>.
- 7. Plans and specifications** that show what you intend to do. Plan drawings should be clear and to scale. Be sure to draw all plans as accurately and detailed as possible. The department reserves the right to require additional information to evaluate the project. Please refer to this sample drawing for assistance developing your plans and specifications, [http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waterways/sample\\_drawings/DryHydrant.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waterways/sample_drawings/DryHydrant.pdf).

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**8. Narrative description** of your proposal on a separate page. Please include:

- What the project is, purpose of project, and need for the project
- How you intend to carry out the project, including methods, materials, and equipment
- Your proposed construction schedule and sequence of work
- What temporary and permanent erosion control measures will be used
- The location of any disposal area for dredged or excavated materials
- For disturbances or fill, provide a description of type, composition, and quality of materials
- How you plan to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to waterways
- Area (e.g. linear feet) impacted

**9. Endangered and threatened Resources** - The applicant is not required but is encouraged to request an endangered resources (ER) review letter before applying for the permit. Information on how to obtain a review can be found by visiting the website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/Review.html>. The applicant can also visit the NHI Public Portal, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/PublicPortal.html>, to determine if a full ER Review is required. Read the 'What is an ER Preliminary Assessment and what do the results mean?' section to determine follow-up steps.

**10. Historical and Cultural Resources** - If you are aware there is a historical or cultural resource present, you are **required** to contact the Wisconsin State Historical Society to verify and receive documentation that the activity will not result in an adverse impact to these resources.

**Eligibility criteria:**

Projects that do not meet all criteria are not eligible for this general permit. If your project does not qualify for this general permit, you may apply for an individual permit.

A. General Standards for All Projects	
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placement and sizing of subsurface drains must be limited to only what is necessary to ensure the functionality of the NRCS Conservation Practice 412 - Grassed Waterways and must be no larger than 12 inches in diameter.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project applicant is the landowner, easement holder, or someone who otherwise has legal authorization to proceed, unless the project creates a water control structure on a navigable waterway in which case the project applicant must be the landowner.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<b>A. General Standards for All Projects</b>	
<p>The project involves only the following list of activities that are designed and will be constructed to meet the listed NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Standard Conservation Practices (NRCS Conservation Practices):</p> <p><b>Applicable Activities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hydrology alterations:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Installing structures or plants in or adjacent to waterways such as grassed waterways, lined waterways, or filter strips to impede surface water drainage or runoff.</li> <li>ii. Constructing water control structures that include dikes, embankments, and low berms to impede surface water drainage or runoff.</li> <li>iii. Removing pumps, breaching structures such as dikes, or re-routing drainage features or manipulating water control structures.</li> <li>iv. Installing small weirs or flumes for the purpose of monitoring. Installing drain tile if needed to stabilize the grassed waterway or filter strip practice(s).</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Soil disturbing activities:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Removing soil, vegetation, or sediment deposits.</li> <li>ii. Grading or adding material to stabilize channel side slopes or streambanks.</li> <li>iii. Creating topography to improve infiltration and sediment deposition.</li> <li>iv. Tilling as needed to install and maintain proper vegetation.</li> </ol> </li> <li>c. Plant management activities:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Introducing plants by planting, cultivating, stocking, or releasing.</li> <li>ii. Controlling plants by cutting, destroying, or suppressing plant growth using manual or mechanical methods, introducing NRCS approved biological agents, manipulating water levels, burning, or using EPA registered herbicides and chemicals applied according to label instructions.</li> </ol> </li> <li>d. Monitoring activities:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Installing and maintaining devices such as staff gauges, water level recording devices, small weirs, and flumes whose purpose is to measure and record scientific data for monitoring the conservation activity.</li> <li>ii. Periodic water quality testing</li> <li>iii. Periodic sampling of flora and fauna composition and abundance.</li> </ol> </li> <li>e. Management activities               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Reestablishing hydrology damaged by large storm events.</li> <li>ii. Removing soil deposition</li> <li>iii. Installing and maintaining a stream crossing to access areas to comply with necessary management activities.</li> <li>iv. Ford crossings installed for livestock crossings to reduce sediment, nutrient, organic, and inorganic loading to the stream and to reduce streambank and streambed erosion.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Applicable NRCS Conservation Practices:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code 412 - Grassed Waterway</li> <li>• Code 393 - Filter Strips</li> <li>• Code 468 - Lined Waterway</li> <li>• Code 410 - Grade Stabilization Structure</li> <li>• Code 578 - Stream Crossing</li> <li>• Code 638 - Water and Sediment Control Basin</li> <li>• Code 402 - Dam</li> <li>• Code 350 - Sediment Basin</li> <li>• Code 587 - Structure for Water Control</li> <li>• Code 620 - Underground Outlet</li> <li>• Code 656 - Constructed Wetland</li> <li>• Code 342 - Critical Area Planting</li> <li>• The project may involve the following practices if they are necessary for the functionality of the practices listed above:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Code 606 - Subsurface Drain</li> <li>○ Code 500 - Obstruction Removal</li> <li>○ Code 572 - Spoil Spreading</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>
	<input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>

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<b>A. General Standards for All Projects</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
The activity will not result in adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources and will comply with s. 44.40, Wis. Stats., as determined by the Department.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project will not occur in a mapped floodplain (official Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or local zoning map), or if the project is located in a regulated floodplain, the applicant has certified that they are working to or have obtained applicable floodplain permits or approvals from the local zoning authority.	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>B. Eligibility Standards for Activities that Impact Wetlands</b>	
In addition to the general standards in A, the following standards apply to all projects that impact wetlands:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<b>B. Eligibility Standards for Activities that Impact Wetlands</b>	
In addition to the general standards in A, the following standards apply to all projects that impact wetlands:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>
NRCS Conservation Practice 656 - Constructed Wetlands may not be placed in wetlands or be associated with impacts to natural wetlands.	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>C. Eligibility Standards for Installing Water Control Structures</b>	
In addition to the general standards in A, the following standards apply to all water control structures:	
A water control structure may only be placed on a non-navigable watercourse.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>D. Eligibility Standards for Removing Material from or Adjacent to a Navigable Waterway</b>	
In addition to the general standards in A, the following standards apply to all dredging activities:	
The removal of material shall be for the purposes of water quality improvement to comply with the NRCS technical standards listed in Section 1A, number 6.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The dredging <b>may not</b> be located on a lake or impoundment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A connected enlargement may only be attached to an intermittent stream. <b>Note:</b> Permitting is not required for connected enlargements to non-navigable waterways.	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<p>The amount of streambed material dredged may not exceed 25 cubic yards over the course of this general permit unless additional material must be removed to repair or re-establish the project because of a catastrophic event or unless a waiver is granted by the Department.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Material excavated to provide a suitable foundation to place a water control structure or ford should not be factored in when calculating the amount of bottom sediment that is being removed from the navigable waterway.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>E. Eligibility Standards for Grading in or Adjacent to a Navigable Waterway</b> In addition to the general standards in A, the following standards apply to all grading activities:	
Vegetation shall be established as soon as possible in conformance with NRCS Conservation Practice 342 - Critical Area Planting and monitored for at least one year after completing the project. During the monitoring period, the grading site shall be inspected regularly, and any areas requiring additional stabilization or re-vegetation shall be addressed to ensure final stabilization. Non-invasive cool season species such as Timothy ( <i>Muhlenbergia glomerata</i> , <i>Muhlenbergia racemose</i> ), Alfalfa ( <i>Medicago x varia</i> ), Alsike Clover ( <i>Trifolium hybridum</i> ), Smooth Brome Grass ( <i>Bromus erecuts</i> , <i>Bromus racemosus</i> ), and Redtop ( <i>Agrostis gigantean</i> ) may be used to rapidly stabilize critical sites adjacent to agricultural fields. For other situations, the vegetation plan shall include species native to the area of Wisconsin where the project is located, such as Virginia Wild-Rye ( <i>Elymus virginicus</i> ) or Smooth Brome Grass ( <i>Bromus inermis</i> ).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any placement of material is limited to the amount needed to ensure bank continuity upstream and downstream.	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>F. Eligibility Standards for Ford Crossings Over a Navigable Waterway</b> In addition to the general standards in A, the following standards apply to all ford crossings	
The ford shall consist of a 6 to 24 inch thick layer of a minimum 2 to 4 inch diameter rock or pre-cast reinforced concrete planks over a base of crushed rock or an NRCS recommended design consistent with NRCS Conservation Practice 578 - Stream Crossing.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A ford may only be placed in a stream less than 100 feet wide and less than 2 feet deep. A ford may be placed in a wider or deeper stream if the Department has approved in writing an alternative crossing location. <p><b>Note:</b> Pursuant to NR 329, Wis. Adm. Code, the ford should be no more than 2 feet deep compared to normal stream depth and no more than 100 feet measured from streambank to streambank.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## Other Authorities

- By checking this box, I certify that the proposed project will not occur in a mapped floodplain (official Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or local zoning map), or if the project is located in a regulated floodplain, I am obtaining or have obtained applicable floodplain permits or approvals from the local zoning authority.

## Certification

I certify that I have read and understand all project eligibility criteria and agree to design and construct my project in accordance with all listed eligibility criteria found in this checklist. In addition, I agree to meet all conditions required for structure placement as identified in the above referenced eligibility criteria.

- This form may be signed electronically, pursuant to Wis. Stat. Chapter 137. By checking the electronic signature acknowledgement box and typing your name, you are expressing intent to sign this form and certifying that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete, to the best of your knowledge and belief. If you decline to sign this form electronically, you must physically sign this form and all other forms required for your project.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

